

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

LAC VIEUX DESERT BAND OF LAKE SUPERIOR CHIPPEWA INDIANS

Ketegitigaaning Ojibwe Nation Tribal Historic Preservation

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November 6, 2008

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EPA REGION 5

Rebecca Harvey, Chief
United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region 5
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Subject: Kennecott Eagle Minerals Company Section 106 Assessment-Ketegitigaaning/Lac Vieux Desert Ojibwe Nation Comments

Dear Ms. Harvey,

The Ketegitigaaning Ojibwe Nation Tribal Historic Preservation Office/Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians has received the report entitled "National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 Assessment for the Kennecott Eagle Mine Project Underground Injection Control Permit, Marquette County, Michigan" from Kennecott Eagle Minerals Company. In your letter dated September 4, 2008, you requested comments regarding the content of this report. Our comments follow:

Lac Vieux Desert is sincerely disheartened by the comments of your "specialist" regarding our culture, traditions and ties to this land. For her to delve into areas such as our "midewewin ceremonies and practices" is appalling to this Tribe. Furthermore, to reduce any comments from the original inhabitants of this land and this area in the way that she did in her report, also furthers our disenchantment with the system as a whole. If you are looking for "educated scholars who are deemed "experts" to do your research that is fine, I fully understand that. But to denounce the comments which came from our "EXPERTS-OUR ELDERS" to us implies that we know nothing. I realize Dr. Thompsons' research included many books, and many quotes on our people, but let us state to you that we denounce most materials in books written. Our sacred language, our sacred ceremonies and anything about our traditional ways of life are not written in books, and if they are, they are often inaccurate according to our true teachings. I find the comments an insult to our Anishinabe elders and our ancestors. I would also like to state on behalf of the band that we reject the theories and observations by Dr. Thompson within this report, from which she drew her final conclusions. No where in her research or investigations did she interview elders from this area, and to me she missed out on "true expert testimony" which in our opinion is a grave error of omission in this investigation.

We are not only upset with this report, we are deeply saddened by it, we are further saddened that one persons comments could be a determinant in something so important in this project.

How can one person assume to be the expert on an entire Nation of the Anishinabe People simply from the literature she read and did research on? The most astounding objection is that Dr. Thompson is not Anishinabe nor does she have ties to or know these lands within our ceded territory.

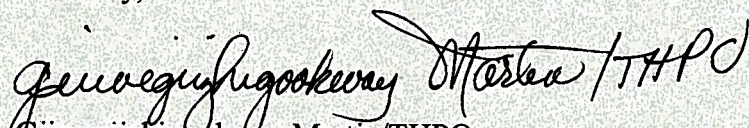
For the record, the Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, and the Ketegitigaaning Ojibwe Nation Tribal Historic Preservation Office does not agree with the conclusion of this report. Ms. Summer Cohen of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community is working with Kristen J. Carroll, PhD., at Northern Michigan University to document the "traditional cultural properties" of the sacred site known as *Migizii wasin*. The research will involve the documentation of traditional and cultural land use practices of the Ojibwa people who currently and historically lived in the local area. The report and nomination will fully consider what we as Native people, and **experts in Ojibwa/Anishinaabe Culture and History**, understand to be the significance of this place. Such an approach takes into account the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Professional Standards that indicate **Native Peoples are qualified experts**.

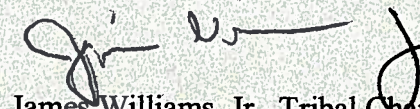
One of the many grave errors identified in this report is the fact that KEMC ignores the local Anishinabe People and relies heavily on Dr. Thompson's claims to determine what is traditional and cultural to the Anishinabe People of this area, along with her interpretations of our customs, traditions, ceremonies, and culture.

To reiterate what Harland Downwind explained on September 10, 2008 during a visit with EPA personnel at *Mig zii wa sin*, Mr. Downwind explained that his place was touched by a spirit in a manner equivalent to what European people consider to be a place touched by the "Son of God." The evidence is in plain sight for all to see, but only for some to know and understand. To deny that this is a Traditional Cultural Property or sacred site to the Ojibwa is to deny the legitimacy of our history and culture, which is exactly what KEMC's report amounts too.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment the KEMC report. We will work with the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community to further comment in the near future.

Sincerely,


Giiwegiizhigookway Martin/THPO
Ketegitigaaning Ojibwe Nation


James Williams, Jr., Tribal Chairman
Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

Cc: Jay Finch, Tribal Attorney